

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 USIA-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-04 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 NIC-01 DRC-01 /113 W

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R 101532Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8862

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SP

SUBJ: SPANISH STUDENTS PROTEST NEW UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS LAW

1. STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS IN SPAIN SPONSORED DEMONSTRATIONS IN VARIOUS UNIVERSITY CENTERS IN SO-CALLED "DAY OF STRUGGLES." DECISION WAS REPORTEDLY ADOPTED BY "GENERAL REUNION OF UNIVERSITIES" WHICH HAS BEEN ISSUING PAMPHLETS IN RECENT DAYS AT VARIOUS SPANISH UNIVERSITIES PROTESTING NEW GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED LAW ON SELECTIVITY (UNIVERSITY ADMISSION). RIOT POLICE HAD TO INTERVENE AT MADRID UNIVERSITY WHERE THEY ARRESTED 17 STUDENTS OF WHICH TWO ARE STILL HELD FOR QUESTIONING.

2. IN BARCELONA STUDENTS DISCONTINUED STUDIES AT THE CITY'S THREE UNIVERSITIES AND IN MANY CLASSES OF THE HIGHER GRADES OF SECONDARY EDUCATION. SEVERAL THOUSAND GATHERED IN UNIVERSITY SQUARE WHILE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENTED PETITION TO RECTOR WITH FOLLOWING FIVE POINTS:

A. CALLING OF FACULTY JUNTAS WITH PARTICIPATION OF STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS;

B. REVISION OF CURRICULA WITH PARTICIPATION OF TEMPORARY PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS;

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C. FREEDOM TO HOLD MEETINGS IN THE FACULTIES;

D. ANNULMENT OF SANCTIONS IMPOSED ON PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS; AND

E. WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSED LAW ON SELECTIVITY.
ARMED POLICE HAD TO DISBURSE MASS OF STUDENTS THREE TIMES.
LATER SOME 1,000 STUDENTS GATHERED IN HALL OF ENGINEERING SCHOOL TO DISCUSS SELECTIVITY LAW. WHEN POLICE APPEARED, THEY DISBURSED. STILL LATER A GROUP OF STUDENTS GATHERED IN DOWNTOWN BARCELONA AND ACCORDING TO ONE PRESS AGENCY, BROKE WINDOWS OF BANK WITH FOUR BOTTLES OF INFLAMABLE LIQUID.

3. RECTOR OF BARCELONA UNIVERSITY, CARREREAS LLANSANA, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY REPORTER FROM LA VANGUARDIA, SAID HE HAD FOUND MEETING WITH STUDENTS " VERY WORTHWHILE" AND THAT BASIS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED TO INTRODUCE A "PROFITABLE DIALOGUE IN UNIVERSITY BETWEEN ACADEMIC AUTHORITIES AND STUDENTS". HE ADDED THAT AUTHORITIES HAD AGREED TO PERIODIC MEETINGS WITH STUDENTS OF DIFFERENT FACULTIES.

4. COMMENT: PRESSURE AMONG STUDENTS, CONCERNED PARENTS, AND OTHER SECTORS HAVE INCREASED CLAMOR FOR REVISION, IF NOT WITHDRAWAL, OF LAW ON SELECTIVITY PRESENTED BY NEW MINISTER OF EDUCATION MARTINEZ ESTERUELES TO CORTES. MANY AMENDMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN PROPOSED IN CORTES TO CONTROVERSIAL BILL WHICH MIGHT PROVE NOT ONLY TROUBLESOME FOR MINISTER BUT ALSO FOR GOVERNMENT AS WELL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, UNIVERSITIES, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MADRID02926
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740116-0119
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740558/aaaabzjp.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH STUDENTS PROTEST NEW UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS LAW
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005